

I D O L A T R Y **Discovered and Detested :**

S H E W I N G,
 That almost all the pretended Christians,
Greeks, Papists, and Protestants,
 (Except the *UNITARIANS*),

ARE GUILTY OF IT;

By worshipping a mortal Man, as the most high God; directly contrary to the express Words of the holy Prophet, **JESUS** of Nazareth. Matth. iv. 10. *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve.*

With a plain honest Defence of the sacred Ten Commandments of God.

And the Hypocrisy, Deceit, and Rebellion, of all that live in open Violation of them.

By **E. E L W A L L.**

With an Account of his Trial at *Stafford* Assizes, before Judge *Denton*, and honourably acquitted.

L O N D O N :

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Where may be had by the same **AUTHOR**, same Price,

The Supernatural Incarnation of **JESUS CHRIST** proved to be False; having no Foundation in the Prophets, nor in all the *Old Testament*; but that **JESUS** was the real Son of **JOSEPH**.

Thy Father and I have sought thee sorrowing. Luke ii. 48.

07.11.745

IDOLATRY

Discovered and Detested, &c.

THE Precepts and Doctrines of *Jesus Christ*, are most excellent and precious, and manifestly came from God ; being the true Genuine spiritual Quintessence of the Moral, Universal, Eternal, Law of God. And what he would have his Disciples to believe of him was, that he was the anointed Son of God, the Christ. Not the natural Son of God, no more than *Israel* ; for God expressly says, *Israel is my Son, even my First-born*, *Exod. iv. 23.* *And when Israel was a Child, then I loved him, and I called my Son out of Egypt.* But he would have them believe that he was a Person whom the Father bath sanctified, and sent into the World, *John x. 36.* *And that he came not of himself, nor to do his own Will, but the Will of him that sent him.* It is evident, it was not the Will of Christ to have died ; and he pray'd to God fervently that he might not ; *Abba, Father, all Things are possible to thee, take away this Cup from me.* And he went a little further, and fell on his

Face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this Cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt, Matth. xxvi. 39.

From hence, any honest People of common Sagacity, may be fully convinced that *Christ* is not God, and that all those who go about to Deify him, do utterly belye him; and that he was far from requiring any such a Faith, so contrary to the Honour of his God, and heavenly Father. Who expressly says, *I am God alone, and besides me there is no other. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me, Isaiah xlv. 5.*

Agreeable to the sacred First Commandment, *Thou shalt have no other Gods besides me.* Which is founded on the eternal Law of Nature, that the supreme Being, or first Cause, is Self-Existent and Independent, and in this it is that the *Unitarians* triumph as unanswerable. And indeed well they may, for in this grand Point, they have got Scripture and Reason on their Side, and all the *Trinitarians* under Heaven, will never be able to wrest them out of their Hands.

It is certain that the Prophet *Jesus of Nazareth*, was born, and bred, and liv'd, and dy'd, a just and strict *Jew*; as *Joseph* his real Father, and *Mary* his Mother both were, and all his Brethren, *James* and *Joses*, *Simon* and *Judas*, and his Sisters, all were *Jews*: And as many holy good Men do at their Death, so did *Jesus* at his Death, *cried with a loud Voice, Father, into thy Hands, I commend my Spirit: And*
having

having said thus, he gave up the Ghost. And thereby gave a Demonstration that he was a mortal Man. And therefore let all wise and good Men and Women consider, who truly revere the most high God, and Father of all, what a preposterous, idolatrous, unreasonable Thing it is in the Nominal pretended Christians, to Deify and worship this meek and innocent Prophet Jesus, as the most high God. Now go, write it before them in a Table, and Note it in a Book, that it may be for the Time to come for ever and ever. That this is a rebellious People, lying Children, Children that will not bear the Law of the Lord, Isaiah xxx. 8, 9. They that forsake the Law, praise the wicked; but they that keep the Law, contend with them. Wo be unto the ungodly Men, who have forsaken the Law of the most high God: For if you increase, it shall be to your Destruction.

No Pen can describe the Odiousness of that Sin of Disobedience to God; when his Laws are forsaken, violated, and utterly set aside, and the wicked Inventions of Men are substituted, and set up in Opposition, and flat Contradiction to them: Here all honest good Men must own and confess, that the Honour of the most high God is concerned. He that said, *If I be a Father, where is my Honour, if I am a Master, where is my Fear?* He expecteth that we should obey him, because he is our Father; *Have we not all one Father, hath not one God created us?* Now this is a Principle founded in the eternal Law of Nature, That he who gave us Life, hath an in-

contestable Right to give us Laws ; and our bounden Duty to obey him. Therefore, when the great Creator of the Universe hath spoke it with his own Mouth, and wrote it with his own Finger, the sacred First Commandment ; *Thou shalt have no other Gods besides me* : Can any Thing be more horrid, than to set up two other distinct Persons to be the most high God, besides him who alone is so. When God himself, by the Mouth of his Prophet *Isaiab*, hath plainly ask'd the Question ; *Is there a God besides me ?* And then gives this absolute decisive Answer to it, *There is no God, I know not any* : Now God is Omniscient, and if there had been any other Person that was God, he would have known it ; but he solemnly declares, *I know not any*. By which all wise, honest, and upright Men may certainly see the notorious Falshood of the *Trinitarian*, *Popish* Doctrine ; and that it is as contrary to our Reason, as Transubstantiation is to our Senses : So that the *Unitarians* wonder how any Protestants that can swallow down the *Bolus* of the former, should boggle, or hesitate at the latter. *He who bath measured the Waters in the Hollow of his Hand, and meted out Heaven with a Span, and comprehended the Dust of the Earth in a Measure, and weighed the Mountains in Scales, and the Hills in a Ballance* : He saith, *To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal, saith the holy One*. Not the holy Three.

For he who is the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only living and true God, never had, nor ever can have an equal. And therefore,

fore, this bringeth me to ask this grand and solemn Question. Whether almost all the Nominal pretended Christians every where, both *Greeks, Papists, and Protestants*, except the *Unitarians*; are not guilty of manifest Idolatry, and whether they have not generally continued in that horrid Sin, for about 13 or 1400 Years, ever since the Apostacy, when *Popery* began to put up it's filthy Head? Every Man of Probity, and general Reading, knoweth full well, that this monstrous Doctrine of the *Trinity*, or the most high God, being Three distinct Persons, was never known in the World for above Four Thousand Years. All the Patriarchs, and Prophets, and God himself, have given us almost innumerable Testimonies to the direct contrary. God saith to *Abraham*, *I am the Almighty God, walk before me, and be thou perfect*: He doth not say, we Three are the Almighty God, but in the singular, *I am*, &c. And *Abraham* said, *I have lift up my Hand to the most high God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth*, &c. And God saith, *I am God alone, and my Glory will I not give to another*. Nay, the *Trinitarians* themselves, some of them, have owned, that the Doctrine of the *Trinity* is not explicitly taught in the *Old Testament*. And therefore, far from being in the *New*. For indeed the Prophet *Moses*, and the Prophet *Jesus*, will for ever stand faithful Witnesses against that absurd idolatrous Doctrine, of the high God, being a Plurality of Persons, which is downright *Polytheism*, and sprung from *Romish* Heathenism.

And

And now, I humbly beseech all sincere Lovers of real Truth; and all Persons into whose Hands this little Treatise may come, to read it in a solemn and serious Frame of Mind; considering that supreme Being of all Beings, whose Glory, Honour, and Worship, I am now greatly concerned to treat of, and to exemplify. The Points of Doctrine that I fix upon, are the express Words of the Prophet *Jesus of Nazareth, which was a Prophet mighty in Deed and Word, before God, and all the People*: His Words are these, *Matth. iv. 10. It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Thus we see this humble Man *Jesus*, quoteth the Words of the meekest Man in all the Earth, *Moses*; he being the Man like unto him. And here, it is worthy for us all to observe, how this wise and holy Prophet *Jesus*, taketh this sacred eternal Law of God into his Mouth, and maketh Use of it as a strong Tower to resist the Darts, break the Snares, and repel the Attempts, and confute the false Arguments of his inveterate Adversary, who would fain have drawn him off from the Worship of the only living and true God; but the holy *Jesus*, repulsed him with Derision, saying, *Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* Let these Words sink down into your Minds, and ponder them well in your Hearts; for whatsoever People there are upon the Face of the whole Earth, whether they be *Jews, Christians,*

stians, Mabometans, or Heathens, that worship any other Person, or Being, as the most high God, besides him who is the Father and Creator of the Universe, are Idolaters, and can never clear themselves from that abominable Sin, but by Repentance, and Reformation, and giving Glory to God in the Highest; that is, to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only living and true God.

For all wise and just Men must own and confess, that the Prophet *Moses*, and the Prophet *Jesus*, and the real, or supposed Prophet *Mabomet*, were all mortal Men, and all Three dyed. Therefore, it is evident to a Demonstration, that never a one of these could be the most high God, because he is immortal; and he alone can say, *I lift up my Hand to Heaven, I say, I live for ever. Your Fathers, where are they and the Prophets, do they live for ever.*

Now tho' *Moses* was so great and so good a Man, and mighty in Words and in Deeds, and God made choice of him before all Men, as the Instrument in his Hand, to redeem the Children of *Israel* out of the bitter Servitude of *Egypt*, and from under the wicked Hands of that inhuman mercyleless Tyrant, whose insolent Pride prompted him to say, *I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go*, (like his most wicked *Babylonian* Brother, 'long after) who not minding nor regarding the just and righteous Judgments of God upon *Pharaoh*, fell into the same horrid Sin of Rebellion and Idolatry, as his *Luciferian* Predecessor had done. *If, says he, ye fall*

fall down and worship the Image that I have made, well: But if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same Hour into the midst of a burning Fiery-Furnace, and who is that God, that shall deliver you out of my Hands, Dan. iii. 15. Here let all that truly fear God observe, how this Blasphemer vaunteth out his Derision of the most High, and despiseth his Law; and proudly asketh, *Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my Hands?* But my dearly beloved Brethren, *Ananias, Asariab, and Masejab*, (for those were their Hebrew Names, the other were the Names which that Heathenish King had given them) they boldly and courageously stood up like three Heaven-born Champions, for the Honour and Glory of that God who gave them their Breath. And they said, *We are not careful to answer thee in this Matter: If it be so, our God whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning Fiery-Furnace, and he will deliver us out of thy Hand, O King. But if not, (they would leave that to his Wisdom, Care, and Goodness) be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy Gods, nor worship the Golden Image which thou hast set up.*

Here all the true Servants of God may comfort themselves, and renew their Faith and Hope in him, when they so conspicuously perceive his wonderful Dealings with the greatest and proudest of his Enemies; for he knoweth how to bring down their high Looks, by bringing the Waters of the Red-Sea upon the one, and driving out the other from Men, and his Dwelling to be
with

with the Beasts of the Field, and make him eat Grass as Oxen, and wet with the Dew of Heaven, and seven Times, or Years, pass over him; till he know that the most High ruleth in the Kingdom of Men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And thus the greatest Monarch confesseth. And at the End of the Days, I Nebuchadnezzar lift up my Eyes unto Heaven, and mine Understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever; whose Dominion is an everlasting Dominion, and his Kingdom is from Generation to Generation. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all whose Works are Truth, and his ways Judgment; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

I have made this short Digression from the Point I was upon, on Purpote to bring Mankind to obey the sacred First Commandment of God; from which so many Millions of Nominal pretended Christians have manifestly derogated and swerv'd; and not only from the First, but notoriously from the Second, Third, and Fourth Commandments, of the ever blessed JEHOVAH. And that which is worst of all the Barbarities in the World, is, that the main Bulk, of these Nominal pretended Christians, have put to Death Thousands, if not Ten Thousands of *Jews*, principally for their firm Adherence, and glorious Testimony to the Truth of that sacred First Commandment, that eternal Law, *Thou shalt have no other Gods but me*; and for stedfastly denying that monstrous unreasonable

reasonable Doctrine of *Trinity*, or of the most High and holy ONE of Heaven and Earth's being a Plurality of Persons.

For this they have been put into the Hell-born Inquisitions of the pretended Christians; and put to the most cruel Deaths, of being burnt alive to Ashes, and other the most hateful, horrible Tortures, and frightful Torments, that the Malice of the most execrable abandoned Hypocrites could ever invent and perpetrate: Not only confiscating the Estates and Effects of these glorious *Jewish* Witnesses, but also, ruining and undoing their Posterity, as far as in their Power lies: And all this Bloodshed and Violation of the sacred Laws of God, and the religious Liberties of Mankind, are committed by a prodigious Number of the basest Sycophants in all the World, who have the Impudence to call themselves by the Name of Christians, yea *Catholicks* too, to compleat the Farce; when at the same Time they do those Things which are directly contrary to the Words of the meek and lowly *Jesus*; who said, *Whatsoever ye would that Men should do unto you, do likewise, for this is the Law and the Prophets*; but these pretended Christians would not for all the World be so dealt with, as they do to others.

Now to resume the Argument I was upon, a Page or two afore, concerning *Moses*, that tho' he was so meek and amiable a Man both in the Sight of God; and all good Men that ever wrote of him; so that it is said of him, *And there arose not such a Prophet in Israel, whom the Lord knew*
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Face to Face; who shone such a Glory upon him, that the Children of Israel could not behold without a Vail on his Face.

Yet was there never found one *Israelite* in the whole World so wicked and idolatrous, to worship *Moses*, as the most high God. Altho' the most High, had called him, and made him a God to *Pharaoh*; and also, to honour him the more, had made *Aaron* to be his Prophet: And tho' the *Israelites* often did, and were too apt to practise the Idolatries and Customs of the Nations that were round them; yet never have we one Instance of their worshiping him as God.

But almost all the Nominal pretended Christians every where, both *Papists* and *Protestants*, that are *Trinitarians* and *Atbanasians*, have Stupidity enough to worship the Prophet *Jesus*, as the Most high God: Altho' he himself had so plainly said, *I can do nothing of myself, and my Father is greater than I*; and his own Words, *It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve*.

And if these Words had never been written, either by the Prophet *Jesus*, or by the Prophet *Moses*; yet would they be true from the Beginning of the World to this Day, and for ever. Because they have a Foundation in Nature and Reason, prior to any written Laws; and all such are properly called, eternal Laws of God: As the First, and Second Commandments, &c. For this King eternal, and immortal, being the first Cause, and grand Causality of all other Beings, has an uncontrollable right to be worshiped

by us, and all Mankind for ever : He being *the ONLY living and true God, and besides him there is no other.*

Now we certainly know, that Three rational distinct Persons, are Three distinct Beings ; and if these Three distinct Beings, are every one God, then for certain there are Three distinct Gods. And would People be but truly honest, they would readily own and confess it, and that all who hold such absurd Notions are evidently *Tritheists*, and manifestly acknowledge three Gods. And for any to say, that the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Ghost is God ; and in the same Breath tell us, these are not three Gods, but one God : Can any Thing be more notoriously false and untrue. Just as if a Man should say, King *George*, is King, King *Lewis*, is King, King *Philip*, is King : and in the same Breath impudently tell us, these are not three Kings, but one King ; can any Things in the World be more glaring Falshoods than these ; or more contrary to all the rational Faculties, which the great and good Creator of the Universe hath graciously given us, to distinguish between Good and Evil, Right and Wrong, Truth and Falshood.

The Prophet *Moses* truly told *Israel*, *Unto thee it was shewed that thou mightest know, that the Lord he is God, there is none else besides him. Out of Heaven he made thee to hear his Voice, and upon Earth he shewed thee his great Fire, and thou heardest his Words out of the midst of the Fire.*

It is worthy to observe, and to know ; why God spoke these sacred Ten Commandments in so wonderful a Manner, and to so many Hundred Thousands of People as he did : And behold, he giveth the Reason himself, *That he might instruct thee.* And as he giveth the best Instructions, so we can never do better than to hearken to him, and obey them. But the pretended Christians for about Fourteen Hundred Years, ever since their fatal Degeneracy from primitive Christianity, have notoriously violated the sacred Ten Commandments of God. And having *despised the most High, thought Scorn of his Law, and forsook his Way ;* and set up their detestable Inventions, of God's being a Plurality of Persons, of making Images, and bowing down to them, (as my own Eyes have seen) of changing God's holy Sabbath from the Seventh Day, that he blessed and sanctified, to the First Day, all which, neither God, nor the Prophet *Moses*, nor the Prophet *Jesus*, ever commanded, but always abhorred.

God reproveth all such, *As teach for Doctrine the Commandments of Men : And Moses, for their vain Inventions : And Jesus of Nazareth, for breaking the Commandments of God, by your Traditions. For laying aside the Commandment of God, ye hold the Tradition of Men. And he said, full-well ; or very evidently, Ye reject the Commandment of God, that ye may keep your own Tradition.* This is one of the crying Sins of almost all the pretended Christians at this Day every where, both *Greeks, Papists, and Protestants,*
 B 2 generally ;

generally ; from the King upon the Throne, down to the meanest Subject. Not only my Royal Friend *George*, the Second, King of *Great-Britain*, and *Ireland*, but all his Lords and Commons ; *Thomas*, Duke of *Norfolk* ; *Charles*, Duke of *Somerset* ; *Holles*, Duke of *Newcastle* ; *John*, Duke of *Montagu* ; my great Friend *Robert*, Earl of *Orford* ; *Daniel*, Earl of *Winchelsea*, and all their noble Brethren : And my Honourable Friends, *Henry Pelham*, *Arthur Onslow*, and all their Brethren ; do ye not all live in direct Opposition and open Disobedience to the sacred Fourth Commandment of God, *The Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God*.

And do not Hundreds of you, yea Thousands, yea Millions of People, go to your Places of Worship ; and hire the Priests to read over to you that sacred Fourth Commandment, *Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy ; Six Days shalt thou labour, and do all thy Work ; but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt do no Manner of Work*. And then God giveth a Reason why it is the Seventh Day, and why no other : *For in Six Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that therein is, and rested the Seventh Day : Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and ballowed it*. And all standing up, pray and say, *Lord have Mercy upon us, and incline our Hearts to keep this Law*. When at the same Time, both Priests and People know in their own Consciences, they are mocking God, and do not at
all

all intend, nor design to keep it, but utterly to disregard, violate, and profane it. This is the doleful State, and Practice of almost all the pretended Christian Churches in *Europe*; who have been all, more or less, drawn away from this sacred Law of God, by that Mother of Harlots, who has caused all the Nations to drink of her fornicating Cups, and abominable Inventions.

And if all Degrees of Honesty, Truth, and Sincerity, be not perished from the Breasts of Men, Then I will appeal unto thee, O King, and to our Lords and Senators; whether this horrid hypocritical glaring Impiety, (in seeming publick Worship) can be acceptable in the Eyes of the All-wise, Just, and holy God.

Nay, but can any Thing in this World be more abominable to him, to hear People read over his sacred Law, *The Seventh Day is the Sabbath, of the Lord thy God*: And then hear them pray, and say, *Lord have Mercy upon us, and incline our Hearts to keep this Law*: By which it is evident, they know and believe it to be the Law of God, and still in Force; or else, why do they pray him *To write this Law upon their Hearts*? When their false Hearts are predetermined to break it, so that no Excuses can be formed to cover this presumptuous Sin; for it is worse a great deal than the Sin of *Jeroboam*: Who had set up a Day to be kept, *That he had devised out of his own Heart*. Therefore God set this Mark of Infamy upon him for it, to all Generations; because he set it up in Opposition to the Day that God had commanded, and out of

Political Views, to hinder the *Israelites* from going annually to *Judea*, to worship at the Temple, lest they should fall to the House of *David*. But we do not read that he did as our profane God-Mockers do, viz. pray, that God would incline his Heart to keep that Law.

So that I may justly and truly take up the lamentable Complaint with sighing, of *Ezekiel* the Prophet, and say, Chap. xxii. 26. and of *Esdra*s also : *Her Priests have violated my Law, and have profaned mine holy Things : They have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their Eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. When Men had taken Liberty, they despised the most High, thought Scorn of his Law, and forsook his Way : Nevertheless the Law perisheth not, but abideth in it's Force.*

So that Men may stiffen their Necks, and harden their Hearts against the most High, and may reject and despise his pure and sacred Ten Commandments ; yet they, like the Works of his Hands, are *Verity* and *Judgment*, all his Commandments are sure ; they stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in *Truth* and *Righteousness*.

Therefore, whosoever would be saved, and would not be deceived ; Then let your *Light* so shine before Men, that they may see your good Works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Never forgetting, those precious succeeding Heaven-born Words, of the holy Prophet *Jesus*, in his most glorious Sermon on the Mount :

Think

Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the Prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till Heaven and Earth pass, one Jot, or one Tittle, shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled, Matth. v. 17, 18.

And lest any should be so grossly ignorant, or wilful, to suppose, that the Word *fulfilled*, means abrogated, or ended: O how wisely, and worthily, does this dutiful obedient beloved Son, and sent of God; this anointed Prophet, shew the Vanity, and Invalidity of such Surmisings, by bearing this glorious Testimony for his heavenly Father's Law. *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least Commandments, and shall teach Men so, he shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven: But whosoever shall do, and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

For not the Hearers, but the Doers of the Law are justified.

Those that are real Christians must believe *Christ's Words*, and do them: And he tells us, that these sacred Ten Commandments shall never pass, till Heaven and Earth pass, nor so much as one Jot, or Tittle of them. He was utterly against the Violation of any one of his God and Father's Laws; and testifieth against all such, and all their human Inventions: And he openly declares, *Every Plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*

What then will become of your *Popish First Day, or Sunday*, as the idolatrous Heathens call it;

it ; because they worshiped the Sun on that Day ; and in the Reign of *Constantine*, Pope *Sylvester* the First, set up that Day, and imposed it on the Nominal Pope-rid Christians ; who at that Time, about the Third and Fourth Centuries, had begun to deviate from the holy Laws of God, and to violate God's holy Sabbath. And soon after they had broken the Fourth Commandment, they did the same by the sacred First and Second, set up too other distinct Persons to be God, besides the Father of the Universe, who is the ONLY living and true God. Yea, they degenerated to such horrid Degrees of Idolatry, as to make them graven Images, and bow down unto them ; tho' so contrary to the exprefs Words of the Law.

But here, most of our *Protestants*, especially the Non-Conformists, will say, hold Friend *Elwall* ; we deny this last Charge utterly : We own the *Papists* do indeed, break the Second Commandment, but we do not. To which I answer, that tho' ye do not break the Second ; yet, ye certainly break the First, and the Fourth, as well as they. They can criticize, and interpret away the Second Commandment, and all the other sacred Texts, that forbid Idolatry : And it must be owned, that the *Protestant Papists*, have Art and Deceit enough to do the very same by the First and Fourth Commandments of God. Otherwise, how comes your monstrous Doctrine of *Trinity*, and your *Jeroboam's* Sin, of substituting, setting up, and surrogating the First Day, instead of God's sacred
Seventh

Seventh Day, *Sabbath*? These vain Doctrines, and false Practices, were never known in the World, for above Four Thousand Years, by any that worshiped the true God.

And will you be so wicked to father them on the Prophet *Jesus*, or the Prophet *Moses*, or upon the most High and holy God? If ye do, then I call Heaven and Earth to Witness against you this Day, that the sacred First, and Second, and Fourth Commandments of God, will stand to confute you for ever; and to testify, *That you have a Lye in your Right-Hand*; and are of those that rebel against the Light. God, and his Prophets *Moses*, and *Jesus*, having expressly commanded, *Thou shalt worship JEHOVAH thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve. For thus saith the LORD that created the Heavens, God himself that formed the Earth, and made it, he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited, I am the LORD, and there is none else. I the LORD, and there is no God else beside me,* *Isaiah xlv. 18, 21.*

Now here observe well; all People that truly and sincerely fear God, from the King upon the Throne, to the meanest Peasant in the Land, whether it be possible for God, or Man, to speak and write more clearly, plainly, and self-evidently, than he, the All-wise, Supreme Being, and all his holy Prophets have done? Is here the least Syllable, or Tittle, of any such Jargon Principle, or Notion, of a Plurality of Persons in God, either 3, or 6, or 12; can any Thing in all the World be more absurd and contradictory,

dictory, to both Scripture and Reason? Why doth not his Royal Majesty the King, and all his noble Lords, and Senators, ask themselves this serious grand momentous Question? By whose Authority, do we receive these false and unreasonable Doctrines? From God they cannot come, nor ever did, but certainly from the *Pope*: He imposed them upon our Fore-Fathers in Times of great Darknes and Ignorance; and our latter Fathers began to see a little into those Evils, and to remove some of them from off our Shoulders: But still there is *many of the high Places not yet taken away*. Yea, not only so, but do we not plainly see horrid Doctrines and Practices, ten Times worse than the high Places: Teaching us to break the Commands of God, and to violate his holy, just, and good Laws, and basely to dishonour him, by setting up Two other distinct Persons to be equal in Power and Glory to him, who alone is the most high God; and solemnly declares, that *he has no Equal: To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be Equal, saith the holy ONE*, Isaiah xl. 25. *I am the LORD, that is my Name, and my Glory will I not give to another, neither my Praise to graven Images.*

Sure it is high Time to reform these Things, and to discard them utterly; for it is not the *Papists* only, that are guilty herein; but the Generality of *Protestants*, except the *Unitarians*; yea, with Sorrow I write it, the Reformed *Protestants* in these Kingdoms also: See the Sixth Question and Answer, in the *Assemblies Catechism*,
where

where any wise Man may observe, the preceding Question and Answer, viz. the Fifth, *Is there any other God but ONE?* The truly excellent and rational Answer is, *There is but ONE, the only living and true God.* Then follows the Sixth, one of the most preposterous Questions and Answers that was ever heard in the World; *How many Persons are there in the God-head?* And the Answer; *There are Three Persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these Three are one God, the same in Substance, equal in Power and Glory.*

How incoherent, unintelligible, and inconsistent, these two Questions and Answers are to one another, I leave all rational judicious Men to judge: That there is but ONE only living and true God; and then to ask this monstrous Question, *How many Persons are there in the God-head?* When the former Answer had quite rendered this last Question, altogether impertinent; by asserting, *There is but ONE only, the living and true God.* Where can you find a Paradox of this Nature, equal to this, except it be in the Multitude of the *Atbanasian* Creed. And praised be the most high God, there is now a great Number of *Unitarians* of all Denominations, that begin to see with great Perspicuity, the gross Absurdity, and Impiety, of that monstrous *Trinitarian* Doctrine, which attempts to set up a Couple of Equals, to the infinite supreme God, and Father of all.

The *Mahometans*, who are by far the most numerous Sect of People in the World, ~~that~~ are
zealous

zealous Worshipers of the ONE only living and true God : But were never so base, wicked, nor idolatrous, to set up any Person equal to God : They believe *Moses* was a great Prophet, and that *Jesus* of *Nazareth*, was a great Prophet, and that *Mabomet*, was a greater Prophet than either ; but never were guilty of any such horrid Idolatry, to worship any one of them as the most high God.

And not only so, but it must be owned and confessed, that both the *Jews*, and *Mabometans*, have laid down their Lives, a Thousand, and a Thousand Times, to the most cruel Deaths that the Malice of the pretended Christians could invent and inflict upon them ; so as to suffer all their Goods and Effects to be taken from them, and their Bodies burnt alive to Ashes, rather than violate the sacred First, and Second Commandments of God, or to own his being a Plurality of Persons, Two, or Three, or Four.

O the Blood, the Blood, that the Nominal Christians have shed, and do continually shed to this Day, in *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy* ; and wheresoever their Hell-born Inquisitions extend. It is remarkable, that, not the most Christian, but even the most *Catholick* King, some Years ago, when he had a mean Mind to turn Monk, and resign the Crown to his Son ; which when he had done, he wrote a Letter to his Son, charging him above all Things, to take special Care to hold up the holy Inquisition ; for that was the Bulwark of the Faith. And indeed all such Faiths, that are not founded upon Reason,
but

but upon Falshood; that One is Three, and Three is One, have very great Need of such Bulwarks.

And it is thought by some wise and good Men, that the original Design of setting up those barbarous, inhuman Inquisitions, was to support, and enforce that Popish irrational Doctrine of the *Trinity*, and some others, very near a-kin to that Monstrosity, as the Supernatural Incarnation of *Jesus Christ*, and the perpetual Virginity of *Mary*, *Joseph's* Wife; and of her being got with Child by a Spirit, without the Concurrence of her Husband, tho' then actually espoused together, that is, married, betrothed, aliured in Wedlock; and she bearing to her Husband 7 or 8 Children, viz. *Jesus*, *James*, *Joses*, *Simon*, and *Judas*, and 2 or 3 Sisters; never violating the Marriage-Bed; but were an honest laborious Couple, living in true Obedience to the Law of God, and never knew any Being, Angel, or Spirit, but her Husband only.

Therefore all such false, unreasonable, unnatural Doctrines, as the Supernatural Incarnation; forged on Purpose to deify, or make a God of the holy humble Prophet *Jesus*: Who was so far from being the most high God himself, that he solemnly declares, *I can do nothing of myself*. And the perpetual Virginity of *Mary*, when at same Time she had her own Husband, and many Children by him. Also, not only their *Popish* confused Idolatry, in worshiping Three distinct Persons, their Transubstantiation, changing God's holy Sabbath, and openly profaning

and violating it ; and making Thousands of graven Images, bowing down to, and even kissing them. Now these, and a great many more such notorious Absurdities, Forgeries, and Inventions, as Pardons, Indulgencies, and believing the Infallibility of the Church, &c. It was no Wonder they set up their bloody Inquisitions, and Tribunals ; as being indeed the main Bulwarks of their Faith : For if they be taken away, and the fat Benefices that are tack'd to them, down they all fall, even to the Ground.

So that this Rammer of Persecution is absolutely needful to thrust down Mens Throats, such Faiths, and Creeds, as *Nebuchadnezzar's* burning Fiery-Furnace was to effect. But those true *Jews*, and faithful Servants of the most high God ; they chose rather to burn in the Fiery-Furnace, than any wise to break the sacred First and Second Commandments of God.

And tho' all the Nominal Christians, both *Greeks*, *Papists*, and *Protestants*, may slight, despise, reject, and violate, those Ten Commandments as much as they will ; yet they will do well to consider, *That for all these Things, God will bring them into Judgment. And let us hear the Conclusion of the whole Matter, fear God, and keep his Commandments : For this is the whole Duty of Man. For God shall bring every Work into Judgment, with every secret Thing, whether it be Good, or whether it be Evil.*

The great God, merciful and gracious, hath given me a Heart to love him ; blessed be his holy Name for ever : And that Love hath
drawn

drawn me forth into an honest, upright, sincere Obedience to his sacred Ten Commandments, and has given me an Understanding, to know that they are all holy, just, and good, and certainly came from the original Fountain of all Goodness; and in great good Will to Mankind. If any one of them seems more particularly designed for the Glory of God than the rest, it is the Fourth: And yet, of that, *Christ* tells us, *The Sabbath was made for Man*. He does not say, the Sabbath was made for *Israel*, but for *Man*, that is, for the Good of Mankind, as *Grotius* very wisely affirms.

And I trust in the ever-living God, the unchangeable Being; that he will enable me to bear my Testimony faithfully to the End of my Life, for God, and for his sacred Decalogue.

For no Pen can write, nor Tongue express the Joy and internal Comfort and Peace, that God doth, and will manifest to the Hearts of all those who stand up for him, and live in faithful, upright Obedience to his Law: Which is a Pleasure that all the World can neither give, nor ever take away from them.

Now if any of these Nominal Christians should offer to evade this Charge of Idolatry, in worshiping a mortal Man, as the most high God, by the old Thread-bare Shift, and *Papish* Invention, of *Christ* having two or three Natures, viz. a Human Nature, a Divine Nature, or Super-angelic Nature, as some of them call it, by which the Priests of all Sorts, have deceived Millions of poor People, and kept them

in Blindness, Darkneſs, and Ignorance ; telling them, that as he was Man, he died, but as he was God, he flew away, withdrew, or lay dormant : And many ſuch idle irrational Tales they have broached forth, to hold up their Babel Doctrine ; of Three, remaining Three, may yet be but One ; and One, abiding One, be Three, and all this at once. “ For the *Trinitarians* acknowledge, that they pay the Worſhip due to God alone, to *Jeſus Chriſt* ; and “ to this Object they convey their Adoration, “ as to God Supreme ; nor by the Intention of “ their Minds, do they direct it through him “ to any ſuperior Being, but make their Worſhip terminate in himſelf.” And if this be not Idolatry, I know not what can be ſo.

Suppoſe any *Iſraelites* ſhould have worſhiped the holy Prophet *Moſes*, in the ſame Manner as mentioned above ; I will appeal to all Men, if it would not be Idolatry : And contrary to the expreſs Words of the Prophet *Moſes*, and of the Prophet *Jeſus* ; *Thou ſhalt worſhip the Lord thy God, and him only ſhalt ſerve.*

And as there is nothing in the World more certain, than that the Fathers *Adam* and *Noah*, *Abrabam*, *Iſhmael*, *Iſaac*, *Eſau*, and *Jacob* ; and the Prophets, *Moſes*, *Jeſus*, and *Mabomet*, all died, and gave a Demonſtration that they were all mortal Men ; ſo for People to pay ultimate Adoration and Worſhip, to any of theſe mortal Men, is no leſs than manifeſt Idolatry ; by giving that ſupreme Worſhip to a mortal Man, which is alone due *To the King eternal, immortal,*
invifible,

invisible, the only living and true God. I beseech all truly pious Souls, never to forget these last Words, of the ONLY living and true God: The King eternal, immortal, invisible; and ever render to him, the Glory due to his high and holy Name for ever more; And worship him that made the Heaven and Earth, and the Sea, and the Fountains of Waters. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory, and Honour, and Power: For thou hast created all Things, and for thy Pleasure they are, and were created. And the Four and Twenty Elders fell down and worshiped him, that liveth for ever and ever.

Now it must be owned and confessed, that these ancient People of God, the *Jews*, of whom *Christ* himself was one, and all his *Apostles*; did never once offer any Manner of divine Worship to their great Prophet *Moses*. And to do Justice to all Mankind; the prodigious Empires, and Kingdoms of the *Turks*, *Egyptians*, *Arabians*, and *Persians*, these all believe in the Prophet *Moses*, and the Prophet *Jesus*, and that *Mahomet* was the last, and greatest Prophet of all; yet to their Honour, as well as to the *Jews* Glory; they were never so stupid and ignoble to pay him Adoration, and worship him as the most high God.

It is very observable, what an ingenious learned Author, saith, “ ’Tis highly probable that the
 “ *Arabians* had long preserved, or rather, had
 “ never lost the Notion of a supreme G O D,
 “ the Creator of the Universe. ’Tis difficult to
 “ prove, that they preserved this Tradition ever

“ since the first Patriarchs ; but ’tis certain,
 “ that *Mahomet* found this Article of Faith,
 “ diffused, and received among all his Country-
 “ men. Only the Idea hereof, was more or
 “ less clear and distinct, according to the diffe-
 “ rent Places, and Characters of the several
 “ Tribes. ’Tis very certain, that all the *Jews*
 “ and *Christians* in *Arabia*, acknowledged this
 “ Truth ; and ’tis as certain, that even the Ido-
 “ laters themselves, did not reject it. Their
 “ Error consisted not in denying a supreme
 “ Deity, but, according to *Mahomet* himself, in
 “ confounding his Power with that of their
 “ Idols, or of the subordinate Divinities they
 “ represented.

“ A Mixture, which he proscribed under the
 “ Name of Association ; because, ’tis impos-
 “ sible that a Being infinite in Nature and
 “ Power, should need the Concurrence of any
 “ other Will or Power, to produce any Effect.
 “ But this Reproach of Association, was not
 “ confined solely to the Idolaters ; *Mahomet*
 “ likewise applied it to the *Christians*, whose
 “ Doctrine he condemned principally, because
 “ they admitted a Generation in the Deity. A
 “ Generation, which he affirmed to be mani-
 “ festly useless, if it only produced the same
 “ GOD, and plainly contradictory, if it pro-
 “ duced another, that was necessary to be asso-
 “ ciated with the former.”

But now, I earnestly intreat all that are called
Christians, to ask themselves this serious Que-
 stion, Hath this *Jesus Christ*, *This Prophet* like
 unto

unto Moses, hath he ever given us any Precept any where, to worship him, as the most high God, and Father of all? Hath not *Christ* told us the direct contrary, and *Moses* likewise? Have they not both joined together in an absolute Prohibition of such notorious Idolatry? Saying, *Thou shalt worship the LORD thy GOD, and him ONLY shalt thou serve.* Therefore, if you were true, real *Christians*, you would obey *Christ*: He told you plainly, *If you keep my Commandments, ye shall abide in my Love; as I have kept my Father's Commandments, and abide in his Love.* He founds his own Acceptance with God, upon no other Foundation, but that of doing his Will; and he taught and inculcated this blessed Doctrine of obedience, on all his Disciples, and real Followers: Yea, he lays a happy Stress upon it, and Necessity; saying, *If thou wouldest enter into Life, keep the Commandments of GOD,* which are all plain, and easy to be understood; and he does not send us to proud Popes, Prelates, or Priests, of any Denomination, for they have been the Introducers of almost all the absurd Doctrines, that ever have been broached this Fourteen Hundred Years. But this truly honest Prophet, *Jesus*, the anointed of God, he wisely directed us to our own selves, even to that Reason, and Measure of Light, that he knew God had graciously given to every one, to direct their Way; and therefore said, *Why do ye not, even of your own selves, judge what is right.*

I challenge

I challenge all the Flatterers, and pretended Christians, to shew us one single Instance, where he did ever break any one of his God, and heavenly Father's Laws; they know that he never did.

But he honestly, and truly said, *Which of you accuseth me of Sin.* So may all the true *Jews*, and real Christians, say, to all the pretended Christians, called holy Lords of Inquisition, and all other Persecutors; What Evil have we done? What sacred Law of God have we violated? So far from it, that the Law is our Delight, because it is holy, just, and good, like the great Fountain of all Goodness, who first spoke it, and then wrote it, in such a wonderful Manner, as was never heard in the World before, nor ever since.

So that we justly reason, and conclude, that of all Laws, none ought to be more carefully, and faithfully obeyed, than those sacred Ten Commandments of GOD; they being delivered in the hearing of above Three Millions of Souls; being 600,000 Men, and 600,000 Women, and computing Four Sons and Daughters, to each Man and Wife, will be above Two Millions more; besides a mixt Multitude of *Egyptians*, and others, that went up with them.

Now all these were then living Witnesses of the Truth, and Verity, of hearing, and beholding with their own Ears, and Eyes, the Words, and Glory of the Lord.

The LORD our GOD made a Covenant with us in Horeb; the LORD made not this Covenant with our Fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this Day. The LORD talked with you Face to Face in the Mount, out of the Midst of the Fire. See how plainly this holy Man of God, appeals to themselves for the Truth of it: These sacred Laws were spoke To us, who are all of us, here alive this Day. Here is no Tricks, nor Deceits, nor pious Frauds; But the Heads of all the Tribes, and Elders, came near to Moses, and said, Behold, the LORD our GOD hath shewed us his Glory, and his Greatness, and we have heard his Voice out of the Midst of the Fire: We have seen this Day, that God doth talk with Man, and he liveth. Now therefore why should we die? For this great Fire will consume us; if we hear the Voice of the LORD our GOD any more, then we shall die. For who is there of all Flesh, that hath heard the Voice of the living God, speaking out of the Midst of the Fire, as we have, and lived. Here is perfect Harmony indeed and in Truth, Moses solemnly affirming it to all their Faces, and all the People publickly declaring it; and with such signal Circumstances, as confirm the Truth of it, and renders the disbelieving of it, highly unreasonable: And denotes an Incredulity to Facts and Truths, very manifest, and that are not only excellent in the Reason of Things, but also exceedingly well attested,

attested, both by the Prophet *Moses*, and the Prophet *Jesus*; and by all the Historians, and Prophets, that intervene for One Thousand Five Hundred Years, all testifying as with one Voice, and asserting the Truth and Faithfulness of *Moses*, the Servant of the L O R D.

And now what shall I render unto the L O R D, for the signal Mercies and Deliverances that he hath graciously carried me through, and hath preserved me with Honour, out of the Hands of persecuting Priests, who thirsted after my Ruin and Undoing, by causing many Hundreds of my Books to be seized; and many Booksellers, and the Printer, to be taken up.

And I taken away out of my Shop, in the Midst of the Fair at *Chester*, and carrying me before the Recorder of the City, and threatening to send me to Prison, either to the North-Gate, or the Castle, but did not. Another Time, the same Magistrate took the Oath of a Barber against me, for laying up my Goods on the Shelves, and unpacking them in my Shop on the First Day; and gave a Warrant to strain my Goods, or to put me in Stocks: And I readily, and joyfully told him, here is my Body, and here are my Goods, take which seemeth thee best; for this is one of the Six Days that the most high God and Creator of all Things, command me to labour, and do all my Work, but the Seventh Day, is the Sabbath of the LORD thy GOD, in it thou shalt not do any Work: And thou knowest I never do, nor ever open my Shop

Shop on that sacred Day, for I love the Law of God, and will keep it till I die.

So he took my Goods, and sold them for just half Price, and then came and laid a Shilling on my Counter before me ; as he went away several of the Tradesmen called loudly to him about what he had done, and told him the Barbers would shave from Morning to Night on *Sundays* and *Saturdays* too, and ask'd why he did not swear against them.

On the First Day next, I sent a Letter to the Recorder, and told him, I was then at work in my Shop packing up my Goods, and he might double the Fine, or double the Time for me to sit in the Stocks, for I would still obey God, and would not regard the *Pope*, nor his Invention of the First Day ; but I had no more Molestation.

And now, O King, I beseech thee, don't take amiss any Thing that I have wrote unto thee, for I sincerely Love thee, and have suffered for the Sake of thy Royal Family, during the Time of the Rebellious Mobs in *Staffordshire* ; where they often, yea very often, threatened to kill me, if I had a hundred Lives.

And once came about Threescore of them before my House, bidding damn their Blood and sink their Spirits, if they did not pull down my House before they slept ; my Wife was then so big with Child, she did not know she had an Hour to go of her Time, yet those inhuman Wretches continued roaring, *Down with the House*, along Time, till at last, by the Persua-
sion

sion of some Neighbours, and throwing them some Money out at the Windows, they marched away to spend the Money ; but before they went, some of them, to spite me and my Wife, kneeled on the Step of my Door, and drank the Pretender's Health, by the Name of King *James* the Third.

Now all this Hatred they bore to me, was not for any Harm I ever did to any of them ; for I have relieved some of them several Times, both before, and since. But it was for the firm Affection which they knew I bore to thy Royal Father, to thee, and thy Royal Family ; and because I had at the Coffee-Houses, and Town Meetings, defended the Right our Nation had to settle the Crown in thy Illustrious Family, which was at that Time very unfashionable so to do ; in a Country where there were then no less than seven, if not eight in ten, notoriously disaffected to the Government, having defaced, and pulled down Eighteen Meeting-Houses ; but it is happily much otherwise now in that Country. And if thou, O King, with thy Nobles and Elders, will do impartially by all thy Subjects, every one, *Jews*, and *Papists*, not excepted, and not deprive any Native *Britons* of their Rights, nor debar them from the Liberties of serving thee their King, and their Country, if called to it ; taking off the oppressive reproachful Shackles, and Fetters, from their Hands and Feet ; then will ye *undo the heavy Burthens, and let the oppressed go free.*

An Account of the **AUTHOR'S**
Tryal and Prosecution at Stafford
Affizes, before Judge DEN-
T O N.

BECAUSE so many Persons have earnestly desired to read this Tryal, I have here published a Third Edition of it, in order to encourage all honest Men, who have the eternal Law of God on their Side, not to fear the Faces of Priests, who are generally the grand Adversaries of Liberty and Truth; and the Bastions and Bulwarks of all Ceremonies, Fopperies, and absurd Doctrines that are in the World.

I do this for the Glory of the most high God, and for the Honour of his sacred Law, and for the Good of all my Fellow-Creatures; that they may obey God, and not Man; *Christ*, and not the *Pope*; the Prophets and Apostles, and not Prelates and Priests; and God knoweth this is my sincere Desire, that all Religion and spiritual Things may be perfectly free, neither forced nor hindered; this being the true Liberty of the Gospel of *Jesus Christ*, who said,

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The Kings of the Gentiles exercise Authority, but it shall not be so with you.

About Eighteen Years ago, I wrote a Book entitled, “ A True Testimony for God, and
 “ for his sacred Law ; being a plain, honest
 “ Defence of the First Commandment of God,
 “ against all the *Trinitarians* under Heaven,
 “ *Thou shalt have no other Gods but me.*” I lived then at *Wolverhampton*, in *Staffordshire*, where my Ancestors have lived above Eleven Hundred Years, ever since the *Saxons* conquer’d the *Britons*.

When this Book was publish’d, the Priests in the Country began to rage, especially the Priest of *Wolverhampton* ; who had a great Hand in the several Troubles I underwent. In short, they never ceased till they had procur’d a large Indictment against me at *Stafford Assizes* ; where I felt the Power of God, enabling me to speak before a very great Number of People ; being accused with Heresy, &c. But I truly answered as my beloved Brother *Paul* did in his Day, viz. *In that Way which some call Heresy, so chuse I to serve the God of my Fathers, believing all that is written in the Law and the Propheis.*

After the long Indictment was read, I was ask’d if I pleaded guilty, or not guilty. I said I was not guilty of any Evil, that I knew of, in writing that Book ; which if they meant whether I wrote the Book or not, (for they had quoted many Pages of the Book in that Indictment) I own’d I did write it ; and that

that if I might have Liberty to speak, I believ'd I should make it manifest to be the plain Truth of God.

Then the Judge stood up, and said, " Mr " *Elwall*, I suppose you have had a Copy of " your Indictment ? " I told him I had not had any Copy of it. Upon which he turn'd towards the Priests, and told them, that I ought to have had a Copy of it. But they not answering, he turn'd to me, and said, That if I would give Bail, and be bound to appear at the next Assizes, he would defer my Tryal till then. But I told him, I would not give Bail, neither should any Man be bound for me ; that if the Prince of *Wales* himself would, he should not ; for I have an innocent Breast, and I have injured no Man ; and therefore I desire no other Favour, but that I may have Liberty to plead to the Indictment myself.

Upon which he said, very courteously, you may. The Judge having given me Liberty of pleading to the Indictment, I began my Speech with the sacred First Commandment of God, *viz. Thou shalt have no other Gods but Me.* I insisted upon the Word *Me* being a Singular ; and that it was plain and certain, that God spoke of himself, as one single Person or Being, and not Three distinct Persons. And that it was manifest, that all the Church of God, that then heard those Words, understood it in the same plain obvious Sense as I do ; as is most evident from the Words of the Prophet *Moses* ; who said to *Israel* thus,

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know, that the Lord he is God, there is none else besides him ; out of Heaven he made thee to hear his Voice, &c. I told them, that from the Words he and him, and his, it was certain God was but one single Person, one single he, or him, or his. I told them that all the Patriarchs from the Beginning of the World, did always address themselves to God, as one single Being. O thou most high God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth ; and Abraham said to the King of Sodom, I have lift up my Hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth, &c. they knew nothing of a Trinity, nor of God's being a Plurality of Persons ; that monstrous Doctrine was not then born, nor of Two Thousand Years after, till the Apostacy and Popery began to put up its filthy Head.

Then I told them, that all the Prophets witnessed to the Truth of the same pure uncorrupted Unitarian Doctrine of One God, and no other but he: *Have we not all one Father, hath not one God created us ?* Then I told them the Words of God to Abraham, *I am God Almighty, walk before me, and be thou perfect ;* and by the Prophet Isaiah, *To whom will ye liken me, or shall I be equal, saith the holy One, not the holy Three.* I told them that the Words *Me* and *One* did utterly exclude any other Person's being God, but that *One* single *Me* ; and that God himself often testifies the same Truth, by saying, *Is there any God besides Me ?*

Me? And then tells us plainly, there is no God, I know not any: I am the Lord, and there is none else; there is no God besides me. Isaiah xlv. 5.

Now, said I, let God be true, but every Man a Lyar, that is, every Man that contradicteth him; for he is the God of Truth; he says, *I lift up my Hand to Heaven, I say, I live for ever.*

After I had pleaded many Texts in the *Old Testament*, I begun to enter the *New*; and told them, that our Lord *Jesus Christ*, the Prophet, like unto *Moses*, held forth the same Doctrine as *Moses* had done; for when a certain Ruler came to ask him which was the First and great Commandment, (or how he expounded it) he told him the same Words as *Moses* had said. *Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord, not Three, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, &c.* And the Scribe said, thou hast answered right, for there is but one God, and there is no other but he, &c. then I mentioned the Words of *Christ*, in *John xvii. 3.* as very remarkable, and worthy of all their Observation: *This is Life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.* And then I turn'd my Face directly to the Priests (my Prosecutors, who all stood on the right Side of the Judge.) Now said I, since the Lips of the blessed *Jesus*, which always spoke the Truth, says, his Father is the only true God; who is he, and who are they that dare set up another,

in contradiction to my blessed Lord, who says, his Father is *the only true God*?

And I stopp'd here, to see if any of them would answer ; but the Power of God came over them, so that all their Mouths were shut up, and not one of them spoke a Word. So that I turn'd about over my left Shoulder, and warn'd the People in the Fear of God, not to take their religious Sentiments from Men, but from God ; not from the *Pope*, but from *Christ* ; not from Prelates nor Priests, but from the Prophets and Apostles.

And then I turn'd towards the Judge, and told him, that I was the more convinced of the Truth of what I had said, from the Words of my blessed Lord ; who said, *Call no Man Father here upon Earth ; for one is your Father, even God. And call no Man Master, for one is your Master, even Christ.* From hence, said I, I deduce this natural Inference, That in all Things that are of a spiritual Nature, we ought to take our Religion from God and his Prophets, from *Christ* and his Apostles. It will be too long to mention all the Texts and Proofs that I made use of ; I will only add one or two, as that of *Paul*, 1 Cor. viii. 4, 5, 6. Where the Apostle tells us, *there is no other God but one, for tho', there be that are called gods, as there is gods many, and Lords many, both in Heaven and in Earth ; but to us there is but one God the Father, of whom are all Things* : So that I told them, here was a plain Demonstration : For he says ; *there is but one God* ; and tells us who that

that One God is, that is, *the Father*. And therefore no other Person could be God but the Father only; and what I had wrote in my Book was the plain Truth, and founded on God's own Words, *Thou shalt have no other Gods but me*.

In short, I could plainly perceive there was a general Convincement through the Court; the Judge and Justices of the Peace did not like the Prosecution; but saw plainly, that *out of Envy the Priests had done it*. I then began to set before them the odious Nature of that Hell-born Principle of Persecution, and that it was hatch'd in Hell; that it never came from *Jesus Christ*; that he and his Followers were often persecuted themselves, but they never persecuted any; that we had now a very flagrant Instance of it by the Papists at *Tbörn*; where they first took away the Schools where our Brethren the Protestants educated their Children; then they took away the Places of their religious Worship; then they put them in Prisons; then confiscated their Estates, and last of all, took away their Lives. Now we can cry out loud enough against this, and shew the Inhumanity, Cruelty, and Barbarity of it; but, said I, if we, that call ourselves Protestants, shall be found acting in the same Spirit, against others, the Crime will be greater in us than in them; because we have attained to greater Degrees of Light than they.

However

However I told them, that I had put my House in Order, and made up my Accounts with all Men as near as I could : And that as I ow'd no Man here any Thing, so I would not pay a Penny towards this Prosecution. And that I was sure of it, that whatever Fine they laid on me, or whatever Hole or Prison, said I, ye thrust me into, I shall find God's living Presence with me, as I feel it this Day : And so ended my Speech.

Upon which a Justice of the Peace, one *Rupert Humpatch*, got up, went to the Judge, laid his Hand upon the Judge's Shoulder, and said, My Lord, I know this Man to be an honest Man ; and what I say, I speak not by Hear-say, but Experience ; for I was his next Door Neighbour three Years. Also, another Justice spoke to the same Effect. Then the Judge spoke to me ; Mr *Elwall*, I perceive you have studied very deeply into this Controversy ; but have you ever consulted any of our reverend Clergy, and Bishops, of the Church of *England* ? I answered, Yes, I have ; and among others, the Archbishop of *Canterbury* himself, with whom I have exchanged ten Letters, viz. Four I have had from him, and Six he has had from me. (At which Words, all the Priests star'd very earnestly.) Well, says the Judge, and was not the Archbishop able to give you some Satisfaction in these Points, Mr *Elwall* ? I said, No ; but rather quite the reverse ; for that in all the Letters

Letters I sent to the Archbishop, I grounded my Arguments upon the Words of God and his Prophets, *Christ* and his Apostles; but in his Answers to me, he referr'd me to Acts of Parliament, and Declarations of State, &c. whereas, I told the Bishop, in one of my Letters, that I wonder'd a Man of his natural and acquired Abilities, should be so weak as to turn me over to human Authorities, in Things of a divine Nature; for tho' in all Things that are of a temporal Nature, and concern the civil Society, *I will be subject to every Ordinance of Man, for the Lord's Sake*; even from the King upon the Throne, down to the meanest Officer in the Land; but in Things that are of a spiritual Nature, and concern my Faith, my Worship of God, and future State, I would *call no Man Father here upon Earth*, nor regard either Popes or Councils, Prelates or Priests of any Denomination, nor Convocations, nor Assemblies of Divines; but obey God and his Prophets, *Christ* and his Apostles. Upon which the Judge answered, Well, if his Grace of *Canterbury* was not able to give you Satisfaction, Mr *Elwall*, I believe I shall not; and so set down and rested him; for I think he had stood up for near an Hour and a Quarter. Then he stood up again, and turning to the Priests, talk'd softly to them. I did not hear what he said, or what they said to him; but I guess'd from what the Judge said next; for, says he, Mr *Elwall*, you can't but be sensible that

that what you have writ, being contrary to the common received Doctrines of the Church, it has given Offence to some of your Neighbourhoods, and particularly to the Clergy ; Are you willing to promise before the Face of the Country here, that you will not write any more on this Head ? I answer'd, God forbid I should make thee any such Promise ; for when I wrote this Book, I did it in the Fear of God ; and I did not write it to please the Church of *Rome*, nor the Church of *England*, nor the Church of *Scotland* ; but to please that God who gave me my Breath ; and therefore, if at any Time I find myself drawn forth to write in Defence of this sacred First Commandment, or any other of the Ten, I hope I shall do it in the same Spirit of Sincerity as I have done this. And I perceiv'd the Judge was not any wise displeas'd at my honest, plain, bold Answer ; but rather his Heart seem'd to be knit in Love to me ; and he soon declar'd me acquitted : And then the Clerk of the Arraignment, or Assizes, stood up, and said, Mr *Elwall* you are acquitted ; you may go out of Court when you please.

So I went away through a very great Croud of People, (for it was thought there was a Thousand People at the Tryal) and having spoken long, I was a-thirst, so went to a Well and drank ; then went out of Town by a River-side, and looking about and seeing no one near, I kneel'd down on the Bank of the River, and sent up my Thank-offering to that good God that had deliver'd me out of their Hands.

By

By that Time I return'd to the Town, the Court was up and gone to Dinner ; a Justice of Peace and another Person met me, and would have me to eat and drink with them, which I did ; and after, as I was walking along the Street, some Persons hove up a great Sash-Window, and invited me up to them, and when I enter'd the Room, I found Ten or a Dozen Persons, most of them Justices of the Peace ; and amongst them a Priest, whom they call'd Doctor. One of the Justices took me by the Hand, and said, Mr *Elwall*, I am heartily glad to see you, and I was glad to hear you bear your Testimony so boldly as you did. Yea, says another Justice, and I was glad to see Mr *Elwall* come off with Flying Colours as he did : Upon which the Priest said (in a very bitter Manner) *He ought to have been hang'd*. I turn'd unto him, and said, Friend, I perceive *thou dost not know what Spirit thou art of ; for the Son of Man came not to destroy, but to save* : But thou would'st have me destroy'd. Upon which one of the Justices said, How, how Doctor, did not you hear one of the Justices say, that he was an honest Man, and that what he said, was not by Hear-say, but by Experience, and would you have honest Men hang'd, Doctor ? Is this good Doctrine ? So that the Priest said but little more for some Time : So I took leave of the Justices, and took Horse for *Wolverhampton*, for I knew there would be great Joy in my Family, for the common People all expected

expected to hear of my being fin'd and imprison'd. But a Farmer that lived near, who had been upon the Jury at *Stafford*, got to Town before me, and the People went all up and ask'd him, What have they done with Mr *Elwall*? Have they put him in Prison? He answer'd, No, he preach'd there an Hour together, and our Parsons could say ne'er a Word. What must they put him in Prison for? I told our Foreman of the Jury, Mr *Elwall* was an honest Man, and his Father was an honest Man, I knew him very well; so they were all damp'd. But there was great Joy in my Family, and amongst all my Friends: Praises, living Praises be attributed to that good God who delivered me out of their Hands!

F I N I S.

